

Message Text

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63

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3903

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9538

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF UNHCR LA

SUBJ: NEW UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE VIENTIANE

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 2737; (B37; (B) BANGKOK 32399

1. IN RESPONSE REF A, MISSION STAFF HAVE UNFORTUNATELY HAD LITTLE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH RASANAYAGAM DURING HIS ASSIGNMENT HERE. HOWEVER, ON THOSE OCCASIONS WHEN WE WERE DEALING WITH HIM ON INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES, HE SEEMED COOPERATIVE, FORTHCOMING, AND POSITIVE IN APPROACH.

2. RASANAYAGAM, WHO IS 40, IS CHARACTERIZED BY HIS AUSTRIAN SUPERVISOR HERE (REPORTEDLY A TOUGH TASKMASTER) AS A "DECENT FELLOW" WHO SHOULD DO A "REASONABLY GOOD JOB." ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AMERICAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER LABELS HIM "ONE OF THE BETTER" AND "VERY ABLE AND THOROUGH". BOTH REFERRED TO RASANAYAGAM'S EFFECTIVE SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE AIRLIFT FROM BANGLADESH A FEW YEARS AGO.

3. ON BALANCE, MISSION CONCURS IN BANGKOK'S JUDGE-
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MENT THAT RASANAYAGAM SHOULD PROVE TO BE AN AGREE-

ABLE AND HELPFUL UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE.
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To: VIENTIANE
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